



AN: DB00039-0938

JIODA 00491-2314182

-----009572 231420Z /43

USINT BAGHDAD

CONFIDENTIAL

JIDDA 00491 231418Z

CONFIDENTIAL

1/2

CONFIDENTIAL

ON JAN 23 THAT ALGERIA HAD INFORMED SAG THE PREVIOUS DAY THAT IT WOULD ATTEND THE ISLAMABAD FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON JAN 26. HE SAID THAT THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT PLAN HIMSELF TO GO, BUT WOULD SEND AN APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE INDICATED THAT AS A RESULT OF FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD'S JAN 20 VISIT TO BAGHDAD, IRAQ PLANNED TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE AS WELL. HE SAID SAG VIEWED THE DECISION OF THESE TWO "STEADFASTNESS FRONT" MEMBERS TO BE PRESENT IN ISLAMABAD AS A CONSIDERABLE VICTORY FOR SAUDI DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO LOBBY EVEN ERSTWHILE FRIENDS OF THE SOVIET-UNION TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS CRITICAL OF THE YAR FOR NOT RESPONDING ONE WAY OR THE OTHER TO ITS INVITATION TO THE CONFERENCE.

3. DEPT PLEASE PASS TO KABUL AND ISLAMABAD IF APPROPRIATE. WEST

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL